

INTERNATIONAL WATER ASSESSMENT CENTRE in KAZAKHSTAN

*Role, Objectives
and Programme of Work*

Main Decisions

- The Meeting of the Parties at its VII session (Budapest, 17–19 November 2015) welcomed the offer of Kazakhstan to host the International Water Assessment Centre in Kazakhstan
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Kazakhstan and UNECE on hosting IWAC was signed in May 2017
- ToR prescribes the scope of IWAC activities

MoU between Kazakhstan and UNECE

- The overall objective is to support implementation of the Convention and, as relevant, its Protocol on Water and Health and their programs of work
- IWAC will have a special focus on Kazakhstan's neighboring countries, other Central Asian countries, as well as other countries inside and outside the UNECE region, as appropriate

Terms of Reference

- IWAC will cooperate with the relevant international organizations, NGO, research institutes, as well as relevant projects in the field of transboundary water management
- IWAC will regularly report on its activities to the WG of IWRM and MoP, as relevant, to the Protocol's MoP
- **The Government of Kazakhstan committed to provide the necessary financial, human resources and technical means to ensure its functioning**

IWAC Office in Astana

IWAC was established in Astana – the capital of Kazakhstan – in August 2017 as a branch of the Institute of Geography LLP. It is one of the leading research centers of Kazakhstan in the field of environment and water resources



IWAC Inception Meeting



- Astana, Kazakhstan, 7 December 2017
- Participants: CA countries, Russia, China, Netherlands, Slovakia, International organizations, Embassies, NGOs, scientific institutions and etc.
- Astana, 8 December 2017



Astana Economic Forum - GLOBAL CHALLENGES SUMMIT 2018

- Panel session “Water and Peace. How to promote transboundary water cooperation?” in Astana on 17 May 2018
- Participants: CA countries, Mongolia, Switzerland, International organizations, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and etc.
- Discussion - how to improve transboundary waters management taking into account the best international practices and how to develop the new vision for the region



Cooperation with the Partners

- ❖ MoU between IWAC and Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (Governmental Agency under the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic)
Meeting of the Slovak-Kazakh Intergovernmental Committee in April 2018, Bratislava, Slovakia
- ❖ MoU between IWAC and Executive Directorate of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) in Kazakhstan
- ❖ MoU between IWAC and Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Coordination Water Commission (SIC ICWC) of IFAS

Regional Meeting on Strengthening Inter-sectorial Cooperation on Water Resources Management

- 12- 13 July, Almaty (Kazakhstan)
- Sectors: water; environment; energy and health
- Participants from CA countries, Afghanistan, China, Iran, Mongolia, Russia

- **Main objectives**
 - *To promote dialogue between stakeholders*
 - *To share views on strengthening intersectoral cooperation at the regional level and fostering the role of water in implementation of the Agenda 2030, as well as contribution of IWAC to the development of the regional cooperation under the Water Convention*

- **Main outcomes**
 - *Proposals on strengthening intersectoral cooperation at the regional level and fostering the role of water*
 - *Proposals to the draft Programme of Work for IWAC*

Work Plan for 2019 -2021

- **Purpose:** to assist countries in the implementation and application of the Convention through the specific activities in selected programme areas of the Convention
- **Sources of funding :** Government of Kazakhstan, Slovak development programme (SlovakAid) and NATO. Additional sources of funding will be sought from bilateral and multilateral donors, including Parties to the Convention

Programme Areas of the Convention

IWAC activities are closely related to the following three programme areas of the Convention PoW for 2019- 2021:

- Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins
- Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels
- Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

Draft of the IWAC PoW supposes the implementation of 6 projects for 2019 – 2021

Development of an information monitoring database for the transboundary river basin of the Ural (Zhayik) River

Objective: to improve the efficiency of water resources management of Ural River by developing a unified information database

- Analysis of the global and regional experience on information databases on transboundary water bodies
- Creation of information database website for the Ural River basin in a pilot mode

National experts of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation will be involved in this work. Project activities will have synergy with the activities on exchange of data and information under the Water Convention

Development of cooperation in the field of water quality assessment

Objective: to contribute to the cooperation of Central Asian countries in the field of water quality assessment methods, to facilitate the exchange of scientific knowledge between Central Asian countries and Slovakia

- Project activities will be designed taking into account the UNECE-CAREC project, “Water Quality in Central Asia”
- Work will be carried out in close cooperation with the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute and with the involvement of national institutions of Central Asian countries

Training in hydrometeorological services

Objective: training of specialists in the field of meteorological and hydrological data assessment, and assessment and prediction of the status of transboundary water bodies

- It is planned to conduct training for experts from Central Asia and Afghanistan in close cooperation with the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute
- The training will focus on such issues as the use of modern methods and equipment and others

Identification of good practices and approaches for supporting water allocation in a transboundary context

Objective: to contribute to the development of a common methodology and principles for sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context

- Review of best practices in the allocation of water resources in a transboundary context
- Development of proposals for a common methodology for sustainable and equitable water allocation

Project findings will be discussed at the regional meeting for the Central Asian and neighbouring countries and further submitted to the WG on IWRM and the Bureau of the Water Convention

Training on the safety of hydraulic structures

Objective: to assist countries in improving their knowledge concerning the safety of hydraulic structures

- Needs of countries will be identified with a view to designing the training of various focus groups
- Development of a special course on dam safety for different levels of specialists

Trainings are designed for the experts from Central Asian countries, which will be organized in close cooperation with Slovakian relevant institute

Key background information for this will be obtained from the Water Convention's dam safety project and related documentation

The courses will cover such issues as dam and other hydraulic structure safety, legislation, institutional and financial mechanisms and cross-border cooperation

Integrated drought management in a transboundary context

Objective: to assist countries in planning a system of measures to mitigate the effects of droughts

- Draw up drought risk maps
- Review methodologies for the preparation of drought management plans in Central Asia and neighbouring countries
- Develop risk and impact assessment methodologies and measures to mitigate the effects of drought
- Assess the opportunities for improving data exchange between countries
- Develop recommendations for mitigating the effects of drought, the possibility of using forecast models for droughts, increasing water productivity and studying global insurance experience, in particular with regard to recovering farmers' losses in droughts

The work will be carried out in close cooperation with the Global Water Partnership in Central and Eastern Europe and the Water Research Institute of Slovakia. National institutes of the countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan will be involved in the work

Thank you for your attention!

[IWAC Office in Astana](#)

tel. +7 7172 790 430

info@iwac.kz

www.iwac.kz